

ation, invitations were announced for the Union to meet at Quebec and Ottawa by Mr. Chamberlain, at Boston by Mr. Brewster, at Washington by Dr. Coues, and at Topeka, Kansas, by Col. Goss. Professor Bickmore, in behalf of the trustees, invited the Union to again meet at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. After some discussion the determination of the next place of meeting was referred to the Council. Resolutions of thanks were then tendered the President and Trustees of the American Museum of Natural History for their kindness in placing at the disposal of the Union the rooms in which its meetings had been held. Also, on behalf of the Committee on Migration, votes of thanks were tendered to Professor S. F. Baird, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, for his kindness in printing for the Committee the schedules for the use of keepers of lights; to the Hon. William Smith, Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries of Canada, for his kindness in distributing and collecting the blank schedules and circulars, and for his order making obligatory the filling of said schedules by the keepers of Light Stations in the Dominion; to Major William P. Anderson, C. E., F. R. S. C., of Ottawa, Canada, and to Commander Henry F. Picking, and also to the Press of the United States and Canada, for substantial aid in its work.

The second meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union then adjourned, subject to the call of the President, after a session in every respect satisfactory and profitable.

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## RECENT LITERATURE.

**Brewster on Birds observed in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.\***—In a paper of about fifty pages Mr. Brewster gives the results of observations made during a cruise in the Gulf of St. Lawrence between June 24 and August 1, 1881, in the yacht 'Arethusa,' in company with Professor A. Hyatt, Curator of the Boston Society of Natural History, and his assistant Mr. S. Henshaw, and three students of the Institute of Technology. The principal points visited were the Magdalen Islands, Anticosti, and the Mingan Islands. The list of species observed numbers 92, respecting which are notes varying in length from a few lines to several pages. While the

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\* Notes on the Birds observed during a Summer Cruise in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. By William Brewster. Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. XXII, pp. 364-412. (Separates issued July 1, 1884.)

notes on the 52 species of land birds abound in items of interest, much more space is devoted to the remaining 40 species of water birds, the account of which forms by far the most important part of the paper. While want of space forbids an extended notice of this very interesting paper, attention may be called to the notes on the Greater Yellow-leg (*Totanus melanoleucus*), of the breeding of which on Anticosti, where it was abundant. Mr. Brewster secured the 'strongest circumstantial evidence'; to the notes on the Gannet (*Sula bassana*), the Cormorants, Gulls, Petrels, Shearwaters, and the various species of the family Alcidae. A very interesting account is given of the Kittiwake Gull (*Rissa tridactyla*), of which two young birds were taken when but three or four days old and kept as pets. They ate freely of fish, but soon pined, and in two days one of them died, it being impossible to induce them to drink. The survivor was placed in a basin of salt water, hoping that a bath might prove beneficial. To the surprise of all, he instantly began to drink, swallowing the sea-water with evident satisfaction. After this the pet gave no trouble; he had his dish of sea-water constantly within reach, and thrived finely, but could never be induced to partake of fresh water. This seems to settle the often-raised question as to how sea birds slake their thirst, at least so far as the Kittiwake is concerned, which would have perished had it not been furnished with sea-water. Very suggestive also are the remarks about Wilson's Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*), the breeding of which seems still to remain a mystery. While a common summer bird off our coast from Virginia to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, its breeding grounds still remain to be discovered. Mr. Brewster found on dissecting specimens shot at various times between June 17 and July 25 no evidence that the species was breeding. He therefore hazards the conjecture that "Wilson's Petrel breeds in winter or early spring in tropical or subtropical regions, and visits the coast of the northeastern United States *only in the interim between one breeding season and the next*," and gives his reasons at length for this opinion. He also extends the same generalization to the Shearwaters (*Puffinus major* and *P. fuliginosus*), both of which occur off our northern coast *in summer*, but have never been found breeding. In this opinion he is confirmed by the experience of Capt. J. W. Collins, as detailed in 'The Auk' (I, p. 237), and in the paper which forms the subject of the notice which next follows. As already intimated, the notes on the Common Puffin and the Guillemots are extended and replete with interest. In fact, few papers of so great importance relating to our birds have recently appeared, the matter being not only fresh and original, but attractively presented.—J. A. A.

**Collins's Notes on the Sea Birds of the Fishing Banks.\***—As is well-known, various sea-birds have long been used by fishermen for fish bait,

\* Notes on the Habits and Methods of Capture of various species of Sea Birds that occur on the Fishing Banks off the Eastern Coast of North America, and which are used as bait for catching Codfish by New England Fishermen. By Capt. J. W. Collins. Ann. Rep. of the Comm. of Fish and Fisheries for 1882, pp. 311-338, pl. i. (Separates issued August, 1884.)